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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/778,988	02/07/2001	Thomas V. Resemann	TER1002USD1	6567

7590 12/03/2004

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, SUZETTE JAMIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3738	

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/778,988	RESSEMAN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Suzette J Jackson	3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,8-10 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,8-10 and 22-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's RCE and response dated September 9, 2004 have been received in application serial number 09/778,988.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 8-10 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin 5,653,743 in view of McNamara et al. 6,004,347. Martin discloses the invention as currently claimed noting figures 1, and 3-5 comprising: A prosthetic graft (1) *for placement by a single delivery catheter at the bifurcation of a common iliac artery into external iliac and internal iliac arteries with in the vasculature of a patient comprising* (see col. 1, lines 59-65; col. 3, lines 51-65 and col. 4, lines 15-30 and note that *this is functional language*): a first graft conduit having first and second ends and a second graft conduit attached in fluid communication with the first graft conduit (this includes grafts 1, 8 and 18-19); wherein the first and second graft conduits

are sized and configured to be contained within and delivered by a delivery catheter and Martin also that the graft may have a stainless steel self-expanding support/stent that may be placed and/or that the graft may be partially reinforced (see col. 2, lines 53-55 and col. 3, lines 1-6), however Martin does not specify that there are stents at the ends of grafting system used for anchoring the prosthesis. McNamara et al. teaches a vascular graft that utilizes multiple stents at the ends to anchor the graft (see col. 2, lines 58-60; 64-65; col. 9 lines 30-35). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the invention of Martin and utilize the anchor/stent as taught by McNamara et al. on/inside of every end of a graft whether it was single, bifurcated, or even trifurcated because it is well known that because most grafts are made from a flexible thin material they need support which is offered by the use of a stent and the grafts also because the stents prevent the graft from dislodging or migrating from the deployed position.

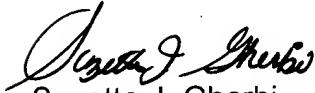
Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant contends that the prior art reference Quiachon et al. 6,322,587 was not for use at the aortic bifurcation and was not sized or adapted to be anchored in the internal and external iliac arteries. The above reference meets the limitations as currently claimed. It is noted that most of the

claim language is functional and the current rejection is capable of performing the functions.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzette J. Jackson whose work schedule is Monday-Friday 9-6:30 off every other Friday and whose telephone number is 571-272-4751.
6. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306.
7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



Suzette J. Gherbi
19 November 2004